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31 January 1967

**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence****MEMORANDUM****North Vietnam's Military Position in the Southern DRV**

1. Over the last year and a half the North Vietnamese have considerably augmented their ground force strength in the southernmost part of their country. At present in this region, called Military Region IV (MR IV), the North Vietnamese are known to have five infantry divisions, two independent infantry regiments and numerous anti-aircraft artillery, logistics, border guard, armed public security and local force units as well as militia forces. The exact number of these latter units is unknown, although current OB places total DRV regular military strength in MR IV at about 105,000. All five of the divisions appear to be aligned, at least in part, for offensive or support operations in South Vietnam. Since most of our information on the location of units in MR IV is obtained from long and medium range radio direction finding, exact locations are impossible to ascertain. Furthermore, only the major headquarters of these units are obtainable from this type of information.
2. Prior to the buildup in MR IV which began in early 1965, there were two infantry divisions and two independent infantry regiments in that area. Both of the divisions, the 324th and 325th, have provided cadre for newly formed divisions which have infiltrated into South Vietnam. The 325th has provided six regiments utilizing its own cadre, some taken from other units throughout North Vietnam and newly recruited personnel. Its current strength is unknown and it may be below TO & E strength.
3. The 324th has provided three regiments to South Vietnam. These regiments are under a divisional headquarters called the 324 B Division. This "B"

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division is located in or just north of the Demilitarized Zone. It infiltrated across the DMZ in the period June-August 1966, but after sustaining heavy casualties, it moved back into the DMZ in September. Three battalions of this division are known to be currently operating in South Vietnam at present, but the bulk of the division is in the DMZ or north of it.

4. The 341st Division is also located in or just north of the DMZ, and in the period from July to December 1966 SIGINT revealed that it was intended to operate in South Vietnam. Since December, however, SIGINT has suggested that the 341st is primarily intended for operations within the DRV. The 341st was formerly the 270th independent infantry regiment, which had as its primary function the defense of the North Vietnam side of the DMZ and the coastal area in southernmost North Vietnam.

5. The fifth division currently known to be in MR IV is called the "Mid-65 Division." This designation was assigned by US intelligence authorities because the unit was first noted moving south within MR IV in mid-1965 and because its North Vietnamese designation was and still remains unknown. It appeared to be on its way to South Vietnam when first detected in mid-1965 but by September it stopped moving south and ever since has been located north of Dong Hoi some 30 miles north of the DMZ.

6. The two independent infantry regiments located in MR IV are probably there for defensive purposes as are the border defense and public security units. The primary role of militia forces is also defensive.

7. On balance, the five North Vietnamese divisions in MR IV have all been used to serve the war in the south in one way or another. Their very presence in the DMZ/southern DRV area contributes, however, to the defense of that area.

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MEMORANDUM FOR:

Herewith two memoranda prepared at the request of Mr. Walt Rostow. "Chinese Nationalist Operations in the Thai-Burma Border Area" was requested through The request for "North Vietnam's Military Position in the Southern DRV" was channeled through you.

31 Jan 67

(DATE)

Orig + 7 slotted for Herbert
MEMORANDUM FOR: SDO AND NIGHT EDITOR

I didn't, thank you.
You probably already have this information,

but [] memo on the status of N. Vietnam
military forces just north of the DMZ is to be done
in typescript (a map is being laid on for this), ~~and~~
at OOB on 31 Jan 67
with all copies to [] except for
a good copy for your friendly MCO). It is not to be
listed on the daily status report, but it is for

"Hello to ACD"

ACD [] told
(DATE)

me to say 'hello' to Hardy ~~for~~
him.

"Hello to John"